

CURRAN COMMITTEE TO
END PROBING MARCH 15

Assistant District Attorneys
Point Out Shortcomings of
Detective Bureau.

MEN LACK INTELLIGENCE

"Can't Make Sleuth Out of One
Who Does Bit of Bulldog
Bravery," Says
Delahanty.

The Curran committee will end its investigation into the Police Department March 15. This was agreed upon unanimously yesterday afternoon at an executive meeting of the committee.

At the close of the meeting Chairman Curran said it also had been decided that the legislative programme of the committee should be submitted to the Board of Aldermen for action by April 1.

"It is more than likely," declared Mr. Curran, "that within the month of April we shall have completed our last act as a body, the filing of our report with regard to any possible administrative changes in the Police Department."

Detective Bureau's Shortcomings.

The executive meeting was held on the heels of the day's public session of the committee, at which two assistant district attorneys told of the shortcomings of the Detective Bureau, and suggested changes. They were preceded by Deputy Police Commissioner Dillon, who was asked about the workings of the Police Pension Bureau.

Dillon testified that all recommendations as to what pension a retiring policeman or his widow should receive were made by the heads of the various so-called benevolent associations in the department, whose workings are secret.

Assistant District Attorney Charles C. Nott, who has prosecuted more homicide cases than any other attached to the District Attorney's office, said the homicide bureau, abolished by Commissioner Waldo, should be re-established. He suggested it be so situated that there could be real cooperation with the District Attorney's homicide bureau.

He found the testimony of detectives sorely lacking, even in big homicide cases. Detectives, he said, were slipshod in making notes at the time of the crime, and it was a very rare thing to find a detective who took notes of what a prisoner said.

Asked if he had ever asked detectives or other policemen why they hadn't taken any notes, he said he had, and that they just replied they had not. He thought the fault was in the lack of a system of training. So far as he knew, they received no training as a body. But he wanted it made clear that there were a number of efficient detectives.

"Would you say that the efficiency and intelligence of the average New York detective in testifying is what it should be?" asked Emory R. Buckner, counsel to the committee.

"I don't think it is," said Mr. Nott, firmly.

Feats of Strength No Criterion.

He thought it a great mistake to reward a policeman in uniform who had stopped a runaway or performed some other feat of strength by placing him in the detective bureau, as is the custom.

"Detectives," he said, "don't need great physical ability. The majority of our detectives are lacking in real detective work."

He, like others, found the evidence of the police less reliable in gambling houses and disorderly house cases than in other cases. And like Judge Swann, he found the police rarely produced the criminal records of prisoners. He said Commissioner Waldo ought to promulgate a rule making such work compulsory on the part of the police.

He maintained stool pigeons were necessary because of the way the detective bureau is composed to-day. He said the very appearance of a policeman, whether in uniform or out of it, was such as to stamp him a member of the force at once, rendering him unfit for real detective work.

Mr. Nott was of the opinion the state was sorely hampered by the present perjury law. He said the law should be so amended that any one who made two material statements wholly contradictory of each other during the course of a criminal proceeding should be amenable to prosecution, without it being incumbent on the part of the prosecutor to define which statement was false.

Assistant District Attorney James A. Delahanty said he found the majority of detectives were industrious and honest, and desired to do good work, but were mentally unfitted for the task. Many competent detectives, he said, were now doing patrol duty.

"You can't make a detective out of a man who does some bit of bulldog bravery, and wish brains into him," said Mr. Delahanty, criticizing the custom of awarding berths in the detective bureau to those who distinguished themselves in the manner he described.

He intimated that the loft burglars were organized. He thought it strange that the same lawyer should have defended every loft burglar tried in the last ten months. A similar organization, he believed, existed among the stealers of horses and trucks.

Neither of these crimes, nor others committed by specialists in crime, he said, could be wiped out or checked, except by special squads of detectives.

MAN STOLE TO GET WELL

Prisoner Explains Why He Took
Refrigerating Co.'s Funds.

Vernon C. Slingerland, of No. 612 Madison avenue, Trenton, N. J., admitted in the Tombs court before Magistrate Appleton yesterday the truth of the charge that on January 2 he had appropriated \$1,528.28 belonging to the Merchants' Refrigerating Company, of No. 161 Chambers street.

Slingerland had been sent to a bank to cash a check for the amount in order to meet the demands of the company's payroll, but he never returned. He declared he took the money so he could go South and cure himself of consumption and at the same time provide for his aged parents.

Slingerland, who is twenty-two years old, was arrested on Leonard street yesterday morning by Detective Michael Mondragon on a warrant sworn out by Harry C. Lewis, secretary of the refrigerating company. The prisoner was held for the action of the grand jury.

SWEENEY ARRESTED;
HELD IN \$10,000 BAIL

Continued from first page.

was transferred to another command, and who has acquired an apartment house, a \$10,000 home and some vacant property, all in Yonkers, by his thrift as a policeman was not indicted by the grand jury yesterday.

Further evidence against him will be submitted, probably to-day, but it was rumored yesterday that he had decided to avail himself of the chance for immunity by making a frank statement of what he knows of police graft, and in that case it is doubtful whether he will ever be indicted.

John J. Hartigan, the patrolman whose indictment for perjury was a direct outgrowth of the second indictment of Sweeney under Section 2140 of the Penal law, found himself in the toils of the law largely because he persisted in "sneaking by" the falling star of his inspector.

According to the evidence in Whitman's possession, Hartigan was the messenger who carried \$950 from Walsh's home to Fox in the Criminal Courts Building on the day that Fox was discharged from the Tombs court after the arrest which Commissioner Waldo precipitated without evidence against Fox. The grand jury had heard in detail how Sweeney and Walsh together arranged for the payment of \$1,250 to Fox to be used to keep Sipp away from the witness chair.

They had heard how after the night session at Walsh's home, in which this deal was fixed up, Hartigan appeared at Walsh's home the following morning with an envelope which had been handed to him by Sweeney in the inspector's office.

They knew that Walsh, in Hartigan's presence, opened the envelope and counted over the eight \$100 bills which it contained, then directed his wife to get \$150 from a bureau drawer in his bedroom, and putting the two sums together in another envelope handed it to Hartigan. From Fox they knew that Hartigan had delivered the \$950 message.

In the face of that knowledge Hartigan was called before the grand jury again yesterday morning. He had a final chance to admit that he began his work on that morning in the office of Inspector Sweeney, but Hartigan still insisted that his first connection with the \$950 message to Fox came when he entered Walsh's home. He said that he had been called there either by a telephone message or by a summons delivered by some policeman. He could not remember which.

Hartigan Smilingly Impudent.

His attitude both before he went into and after he came out of the grand jury room was one of good natured defiance, and he carried the same smiling impudence into court with him. His indictment for perjury was a foregone conclusion, however, because of the mass of facts contradictory to his sworn evidence, which was previously in the hands of the grand jury.

Robinson's indictment, although expected on general grounds for some time, came as a direct result of new evidence which was submitted to the grand jury only yesterday, and which was an outgrowth of the personal investigation of Sweeney's district made by District Attorney Whitman and Assistant District Attorney Frederick J. Groehl on Saturday.

Along with its serious aspect, however, as has nothing else in the general graft inquiry the grasping avarice of a policeman who has once tasted graft, it carried a humorous sidelight of the touching trust reposed by Sweeney in his collectors.

Tony Tancredi, who owns an Italian restaurant and small hotel in East 125th street, told the story which resulted in Robinson's indictment. His hotel is a small one, and his restaurant is popular even though he has no liquor license. He said yesterday his hotel profits did not amount to much more than \$60 a month, and that Sweeney's collector, with his demand for \$50 a month, and Walsh's collector, with his demand for \$10 a month, sapped up all his profit in a normal month.

He told how Robinson, when he came to collect, was usually accompanied by Sweeney, and how Sweeney would stand across the street from his place while Robinson came in to get the money. Robinson would go across to see Sweeney immediately after making the collection. Tancredi said, from which it appeared that Sweeney trusted his collector just about as far as he could see him, and no further.

The specific graft payment of Tancredi, on which Robinson's indictment was based, was cited in the indictment as one of \$25, made on August 1, 1912, from which it appeared that the graft accusations which followed the Rosen-thal murder on July 16, did not bother the Harlem inspector to any appreciable extent.

Tancredi described his experience with the police "system" in a convincing way. He declared that when first approached he met the "system's" representatives with an absolute refusal to pay. He was arrested and got sixty days on the island. The very day he returned he was approached again, but his stubbornness was aroused and he told them "no" a second time. A second arrest followed, and, according to Tancredi, when he got to court the police who had his case came to him with the query as to whether he thought they "could put him across the river again."

"I guess you can," he admitted, and finally he threw up his hands. When he got ready to "talk business," he said, they told him it would cost \$150 to "fix the case," together with his promise to pay \$50 a month to the inspector from then on. Apparently they did not charge him for the time he had been on the island, although his place had been running in his absence.

He had \$500 with him, he said, which he handed over, and then he drew a check for the \$100 balance. On his check book stub that item was frankly entered as "for police."

It was written in Italian as "polizio"

carabinieri," literally "gun-carrying police," which was no joke to Tancredi, particularly when he found later that to pay the inspector of the district anything at all entailed a payment of some kind to the captain of the precinct. Captain Walsh, however, had decided that Tancredi's place was too small to be leveled upon for any great amount, and he was satisfied with a mere \$10 a month.

It was said that when he learned yesterday that Sweeney had been getting \$50 a month from the same place, as well as taking his regular 50 per cent of Walsh's small \$10 levy, the sick captain betrayed human signs of being sick.

That the police "ring" was afraid of Tancredi because of his previous fits of stubborn antagonism was evident from the fact that as soon as the present current of graft in Harlem began to be opened up the little Italian restaurant and hotel keeper was deluged with warnings to "keep his mouth shut." Some of these warnings came by telephone, some by word of mouth from policemen whom he had never seen before, and some by mail.

Closed Mouth Makes Wise Head.

One of those by mail read as follows: "Friend Tancredi, 'A closed mouth makes a wise head. We're your friends, and everything will be O. K. if you will keep your mouth shut. If you don't you and yours will suffer like some rats. I need not explain what, but I guess you know. We are your friends if you do what is right.'"

The letter was not signed. Whitman talked with Tancredi at his place of business on Saturday afternoon, when the District Attorney was trailed through Sweeney's district by two policemen in plain clothes, and twenty minutes after Whitman left him, Tancredi said yesterday, two men whom he did not know came in to tell him that if he told anything to Whitman he would be arrested and sent over to the island for a good long term.

As to the "turnout" in the magistrate's court, engineered for Tancredi's benefit after he saw the light of wisdom and began to deal with the police on a cash basis, Mr. Whitman has investigated the court records of the case, and further trouble for other men of Sweeney's is in prospect from that source.

It was commented upon yesterday that Robinson, the patrolman indicted on Tancredi's testimony, was investigated recently by the new Third Deputy Police Commissioner, Harry Newburger, and in Newburger's words, "given a clean bill of health as to graft accusations." Why Hartigan, who admitted to Newburger that he was the \$950 messenger in the Fox-Sipp case, was not suspended on that admission, and the arrest and arraignment of Sweeney, and of Hartigan and Robinson, went over until the afternoon. The three police officers were arrested by detectives "Barney" Flood and "Eddie" Leish in the detective division office in the Criminal Courts Building.

Whitman asked that bail be fixed at \$10,000 in each case against Sweeney, while Talley thought that \$5,000 for each case would be sufficient. "In view of the fact that the prisoner is a trusted officer of the Police Department," Justice Goff settled upon \$5,000 for each case, or \$10,000 in all, for Sweeney, Hartigan and Robinson were each held in \$5,000 bail, and all the bonds were later supplied by a surety company.

The cases of the two captains, former inspectors, and the other inspector, who are involved in the same graft net that brought Sweeney and his men to the bar, will be considered by the grand jury within the present week, but it is believed that Mr. Whitman will still confine his chief effort to carrying the Sweeney cases to completion before attacking the other police officials implicated in the Harlem graft.

HONOR FOR DR. ALEXIS CARREL.

Paris, Feb. 17.—Dr. Alexis Carrel, of the Rockefeller Institute of New York, winner of the Nobel prize for medicine, has been decorated with the Legion of Honor.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER J. E. DILLON.
Who testified before the aldermanic committee yesterday.LITTLE GAMBLING IN
CHICAGO, SAYS MAYOR

Houses Closed in 24 Hours or
Police Chief's Head Falls,
Harrison Asserts.

VIEWS OF "THE MAYOR."

Said the Mayor last night:
Gambling cannot exist without my knowledge twenty-four hours. If it lasted longer I would remove the head of the Police Department.

The detective bureau should be separate and distinct from the Police Department.

Segregation of the social evil does not destroy graft.

Systematic violators of the law always look for a protector, and will pay money to him.

(No, it wasn't Mayor Gaynor. It was Mayor Carter H. Harrison of Chicago.)

If a gambling house started in Chicago it would be closed in twenty-four hours or the head of the supervisor of police would fall into the basket.

That was Mayor Carter H. Harrison's comment on the graft exposures in this city when he was seen last night at the Hotel Imperial after his arrival from Chicago. The Mayor was accompanied by his daughter Edith, whom he will take to-day to a private school at Briarcliff Manor.

Mayor Harrison declared that he, individually, was responsible for the police, and his emphasis left no doubt of his meaning.

"And if gambling houses existed," asked a Tribune reporter.

"They would not run more than twenty-four hours. If they did I'd remove the head of the Police Department. Gambling in Chicago in the last eighteen months hasn't amounted to a hill of beans. There are a few poker games running, but no faro or roulette or hazard boards. There is some sporadic crap shooting, small and cheap. And I suppose if some stock broker came into town and mixed in with some high rollers, and wanted to play roulette for high stakes, I suppose a wheel could be found and rigged up in some hotel room."

Mayor Harrison said he saw his superintendent of police, as he is called in Chicago, every day. Sometimes two and three times a day.

"We had an investigation of the police in Chicago not so long ago," continued Mr. Harrison. "As a result we passed a city ordinance that means a reorganization of the Police Department, and we got rid of some inspectors and captains."

New Law Eliminates Favoritism.

"One big thing that the new law will do, and it will be in active operation in about six weeks, is to cut out favoritism of all kinds from the Detective Bureau. Under the new law a detective will receive \$1,700 or \$1,800 a year, dependent upon his rank. And the detectives will not be selected by any one man, but by the Civil Service Board, after a civil service examination."

"There is one fault with the new law. It does not permit a civilian's taking an examination for the second grade—that is, the \$1,500 position. The law makes it necessary for a candidate to be a policeman with at least three years' service to his credit."

"It doesn't do to shut out good men from any position, and I believe that the best thing for any detective bureau would be to divorce it from the uniformed Police Department altogether. I believe that the physical qualifications—that a man must be 5 feet 8 inches in height and so heavy, which I believe obtain here in New York—should not apply to the Detective Bureau. I am not against big men in the Detective Bureau. We need big men, but we also need the small man if he has brains, and brains is the primal requisite in criminal investigation. This size limit is foolish."

SHACKLETON POSITIVE OF
VINDICATION OF WILKES

Explorer Declares Mawson Expedition Furnishes Final Proof of Admiral's Integrity.

SPEAKS TO JAPAN SOCIETY

Lindsay Russell, President, Host at Farewell Luncheon to British Explorer, Who Sails Away To-day.

Sir Ernest Shackleton, chief speaker at a luncheon of the Japan Society yesterday, asserted that Rear Admiral Charles Wilkes now stands completely vindicated of the charges of fabrication made against him more than seventy years ago.

When Admiral Wilkes, after exploring the South Pacific and Antarctic oceans, between 1838 and 1842, returned and reported that he had discovered Adélie Land in January, 1840, scientists attacked his assertions, declaring the land he maintained he had discovered could not really exist. He was court-martialed on these charges of fabrication.

Sir Ernest Shackleton in his speech yesterday said the recent reports from London of the discoveries by the present expedition in the same regions by Dr. Douglas Mawson substantiated Sir Ernest's own discoveries in 1908 and 1909, when he procured good and sufficient proof that Admiral Wilkes adhered strictly to the truth in his reports seventy years ago.

"The Mawson expedition," said Sir Ernest, "is composed of fifty men, most of them college graduates, with the most modern equipment for scientific research. When we consider that Admiral Wilkes made the same discoveries seventy years ago with what, judged by present standards, was an ill-equipped expedition, his work ranks as one of the wonders in the history of exploration."

The luncheon was in the club's quarters, in the City Investing Building. Besides Sir Ernest Shackleton, who sailed for England to-day, there were present William Spelden, one of the three survivors of Commodore Perry's Japanese expedition of 1853; Lindsay Russell, president of the Japan Society, who was the host yesterday; Robert C. Morris, Hamilton, Bets, F. S. V. Crosby, Stowe Phelps, Don C. Seitz, P. Cunliffe-Owen, N. Kitch, manager of the Imperial Hotel, in Tokyo, and Yasutaro, Numanu, acting Consul General for the Japanese government.

Sir Ernest said he had for many years raised his voice in England in defense of Admiral Wilkes before the Royal Geographical Society and other scientific bodies. The Mawson party, in which is Frank Wild, one of Shackleton's companions in the Antarctic, has left no doubt in his mind, Sir Ernest said, that Wilkes has been cruelly maligned.

Admiral Wilkes came into prominence during the Civil War, when he was sent out in the San Jacinto to look for the Confederate cruiser Sumner, and intercepted the Confederate commissioners, Mason and Slidell, on the British mail steamer Trent. Later he commanded the flying squadron that broke up the blockade running in Southern waters.

Sir Ernest also spoke feelingly of Scott and the men who perished with him in the Antarctic. His only reference to the equipment of the Scott expedition, about which a controversy began as soon as it was learned how he and his two companions perished, was:

"No matter how modern your equipment and organization, in the end you must come down to the human animal."

Mr. Spelden spoke briefly of the Japanese expedition, in which he served under Commodore Perry as a junior officer. Mr. Spelden's father was with the fleet as purser.

WILL SIMPLIFY ELECTIONS

Bills Making Numerous Changes in Law Presented.

Albany, Feb. 17.—No attempt will be made by the present Legislature to eliminate voting machines in New York State. The question whether the machines shall be used is for the communities to decide.

In the opinion of the Democratic Senators and Assemblymen who were appointed to draft amendments to the primary and election laws.

Several bills framed by the committee were introduced to-night by Senator Blauvelt and Assemblyman Patrie, their principal features being:

Permitting the Progressive party to take part in the official primaries of 1913, eliminating printing and publication of enrolment and registry lists except in first and second class cities; reducing from four to two the number of commissioners of election in all counties except those constituting the City of New York; reducing from four to two the number of registration days in all districts where personal registration is not required; making primary and election day tickets less cumbersome and expensive; encouraging independent designations by reducing to 5 per cent of the vote at the last preceding election for Governor the number of signatures required to independent petitions, and increasing from five to ten days the time within which they may be filed; abolishing personal registration in rural districts and villages having less than 5,000 population, and empowering communities to decide whether voting machines shall be used.

Senator Blauvelt said the committee was considering the suggestion to make Primary Day fall on the first day of registration.

"In support of this idea," said the Senator, "it is urged that there will be a larger vote at the primaries, thus insuring a clear expression of popular will. Shorter campaigns will be the result, the first day of registration coming early in October, and less than a month before election, which might or might not be considered too short for the discussion of the campaign issues."

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT OPENS

Leaders Planning Education of Public on Labor Conditions.

A series of industrial conferences and an exhibit of factory conditions in New York State opened yesterday afternoon, under the Child Welfare League, at the Frances Building, No. 65 Fifth avenue. Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of President-elect Wilson, assisted.

The exhibit is descriptive of phases of social and industrial welfare affected by labor bills now before the State Legislature.

The exhibit will be open daily from 10 in the morning to 5 in the afternoon. There will be conferences each day at noon and at 4 p. m.

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HOLD BOYS' HOBBY SHOW

Brooklyn Store Devotes Entire Floor to Exhibits.

\$500 IN PRIZES OFFERED

Specimens Run from Drawings to Aeroplane Woodwork and Machinery.

The American boy is a wonder. In his amusements and his problems, in his joys and sorrows, in his prejudices and in his hobbies, he is always an interesting study. Exceptional opportunity to observe him in respect to the last mentioned mood is presented now at Smith, Gray & Co.'s store at Fulton street and Flatbush avenue, Brooklyn.

They are devoting an entire floor in the building to an exhibition which comprises a remarkable collection of specimens of boys' work. The gathering of several thousand exhibits shows the hobbies of boys in the widest range.

The exhibition, the first of its kind in this country, is the result of a competition instituted by Smith, Gray & Co. in all sorts of work in which boys generally find interest. Prizes to the amount of \$500 in gold are to be awarded.

Among the exhibits are aeroplanes, aquaria, water wagons, windmills, woodwork, metal work, modelling in clay, pyrography, photography and mechanical drawings.

The visitor will also find work of artists who use pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, water colors and oils. There are wireless stations, of course, and the boys whose minds turn to electricity are represented in large numbers.

Some of the exhibits worth special mention are: A boy eight years old has modelled in clay a dead canary. Perhaps the original was a pet of his. Another has modelled a Lincoln head from the Lincoln penny.

An exhibit attracting much interested attention is a small model of a factory, with its office, which contains a desk and a safe. It has an engine room and workshops. All of the machinery is driven by a gas engine, and the entire factory is lighted by electricity supplied by batteries.

In the airship division there is a dirigible which carries its own electric light. There is a windmill about twenty feet high, which is operated by a small motor.

Among the drawings there are many excellent cartoons, and the oil paintings and water colors in a great many cases are far better than would be expected from boys of such tender age.